



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

For Immediate Release:
June 14, 2007

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Barrett Celebrates Father's Day with Foundation Boost to Mayor's Fatherhood Program

MILWAUKEE – Just in time for Father's Day this Sunday, Mayor Tom Barrett is pleased to announce that the City of Milwaukee has received a \$75,000 grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to fund the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative, a program launched by the Mayor in 2005.

Last fall, Mayor Barrett convened a city-wide Fatherhood Summit aimed at identifying ways to get men to proactively embrace their roles in their children's lives. More than 1200 men attended the Summit where a variety of breakout sessions were conducted to assist fathers with topics ranging from mental health and depression to reconnecting to families after incarceration and issues related to non-custodial parenting.

"We need to invest in the young people of our city," said Mayor Barrett. "We need to give them strong families to support them during the most critical time in their lives and strong neighborhoods where they feel safe and see hope for the future. None of this can happen unless we successfully address the effect absentee fatherhood has on families, and encourage dads to stay involved in their children's lives. We know that kids who grow up with dads who are active in their lives are more likely to complete their education, have less trouble in school and grow to be successful, healthy and happy adults."

Barrett continued, "As I work to make our city safer and stronger, it's important to consider that it all begins in the home, with family. I want to thank the Greater Milwaukee Foundation for its partnership in this effort and its shared commitment to improve the well-being of children by increasing the proportion of children growing up with involved, responsible and committed fathers in their lives."

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The grant will provide support for a full-time Program Director who will provide strategic planning, communications and fund-raising, among other duties for the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative. A second summit is being planned for October 12-13, 2007.

James A. Marks, Vice President/Director of Grant Programs at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation added: "Research tells us that children do best when both parents are in their lives. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is pleased to provide support for the Fatherhood Initiative and its efforts to help fathers - those who are active in their children's lives as well as those who are struggling to find ways to connect with their children. It's an investment that helps and supports families and children in our community. We are pleased to partner with the Mayor and the City of Milwaukee on this important initiative."

Mayor Barrett is the father of four children: Tommy, Annie, Erin and Katie.